Special stamps with surcharge **Pro Juventute 2015**

Family rituals continued

Special stamps **Christmas**

Four festive snow globes

Special stamp **DivertiMento**

The inimitable Swiss comedy duo

4/2015

Focus on stamps

The Collector's Magazine

SWISS POST

Yellow in motion.

Christmas card set **"Christmas tree"**

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Expiry date (month/year) ☐☐☐☐

Date/Signature: _____

Dear Reader

How quickly time passes – hard to believe we're already three-quarters of the way through the year!
Autumn is once again showing nature at her most resplendent. Not long now before dark, cold and gloomy winter will be setting in. But this season also has its charms. A time of peace and reflection. Advent and Christmas are just around the corner.

Our Christmas stamps this year feature four snow globes. In olden days these were often given as souvenirs or presents. A gentle shake and the white snowflakes swirl up before settling down over the miniature figures and landscapes. Join Swiss Post in a nostalgic trip down memory lane.

It's all happening at the moment for DivertiMento, undoubtedly the most famous of the current crop of Swiss comedians. Jonny Fischer and Manu Burkart are sell-out successes up and down the country, stretching audiences' laughing muscles to the limit. This year's celebrity stamp is dedicated to them.

We also continue the series of Pro Juventute stamps introduced last year with three more family rituals. The three special stamps with surcharge feature culinary and creative motifs around the festive season.

Rounding off 2015's philatelic year will be the Stamp Day in Bulle.

Dear readers – we thank you for your loyalty and extend to you and your loved ones all good wishes for the remainder of 2015, a wonderful festive season, and every happiness, health and good fortune in the coming year.

Kind regards

Carina Ammon
Head of Stamps &
Philately

These and other miniature works of art can be found in this issue of Focus on stamps.

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Cover page: Comic duo DivertiMento. Photo: René Tanner | festhalter

A thank you to our subscribers

Once again this year, all our stamp and postmark subscribers will be receiving a valuable folder from us as a thank-you for your loyalty. This contains the original "Ammonite" miniature sheet with multi-level embossing and special perforation from the 01/15 issue dated 5 March 2015.

The subscription gift will be sent out with issue 04/15 or with the 2015 annual order as applicable. **This folder is not available to buy!**
If you would like one of these desirable collector's items but do not yet have a subscription, then don't delay – take out a standing order today and you will receive the exclusive folder as a gift.

Our Customer Service would be happy to help.
Tel.: +41 (0)848 66 55 44, e-mail: stamps@post.ch

We hope you continue to enjoy collecting Swiss stamps.

Event calendar for the first half of 2016

Month	Key	Date	Town	Occasion
January	L	22.1.		Focus on stamps 1/2016: The collector's magazine
March	**I**	**3.3.**		**Issue date**
	F/E	End of March*	Milano	Milanofil16
April	F	1.4.		Focus on stamps 2/2016: The collector's magazine
	CS	18.4.	Zurich	Sechseläuten
May	**I**	**12.5.**		**Issue date**
	F/E	12.5.–14.5.	Essen	International Stamp Fair 2016
June	SP	4.6.–5.6.	Erstfeld and Bodio	Opening ceremonies Gottardo 2016

Key

I	Issue date for stamps/ postal stationery
F	Focus on stamps (stamps magazine)
F/E	Fair/Exhibition
SP	Special post office
CS	Cancellation service

* The exact date of the trade fair in Milan was not known by the copy deadline.

Subject to changes and additions; the dates for the full year will be communicated in one of the next issues.
Status: August 2015

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These Terms and Conditions can be ordered by telephone (+41 [0]848 66 55 44) or by e-mail (stamps@post.ch). They are also available at www.swisspost.ch/agb/post-agb-phila.pdf

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Copy deadline: 30.8.2015
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Stamp issue: 12.11.2015

The **2016 philatelic year** promises to be **varied and fascinating**

Birthdays, special anniversaries, Switzerland's merchant fleet, a film star, major Swiss celebrations – these are just some of the subjects featured on our stamps to be issued in the coming year. Animals that are rarely glimpsed, splendid castles and palaces, typical Swiss landscapes and amazing technical advances also feature prominently. You will therefore be able to continue enjoying many small nuggets of Switzerland next year.
We will inform you about the stamp motifs for the second half of 2016 in one of the next issues of this magazine. We will also be starting a new definitive stamp series featuring Swiss railway stations. All values will be replaced (mushrooms, vegetable blossoms and traditional handicrafts).

Subject to changes and additions.
You can always find the latest version at swisspost.ch/stamps.

Day of issue: **3 March 2016**
Presented in: **Focus 1/2016 dated 22 January 2016**

No.	Value	Description
4	**5.35**	**Special stamps 75 years of the Swiss merchant fleet**
	0.85	Lavaux
	1.00	Lugano
	1.50	Lausanne
	2.00	Monte Rosa
4	**9.35**	**Maximum cards 75 years of the Swiss merchant fleet**
	1.85	Lavaux
	2.00	Lugano
	2.50	Lausanne
	3.00	Monte Rosa
2	**3.00**	**Special stamps Dada centenary**
	1.00	Hugo Ball
	1.00	Sophie Taeuber-Arp
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Marie Heim-Vögtlin 1845–1916
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Henri Nestlé
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps Molly Monster**
	1.00	Molly on the bridge
	1.00	Molly in the cable car
2	**4.00**	**Postal cards Molly Monster**
	2.00	Molly on the bridge
	2.00	Molly in the cable car
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 50 years of Tox Info Suisse
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 100 years of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 150 years Swiss Red Cross (SRC)

Day of issue: **12 May 2016**
Presented in: **Focus 2/2016 dated 1 April 2016**

No.	Value	Description
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps Gottardo 2016**
	1.00	Erstfeld
	1.00	Bodio
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Swiss wrestling
4	**5.35**	**Special stamps Nocturnal animals**
	0.85	Tawny Owl
	1.00	Garden dormouse
	1.50	European glow-worm
	2.00	Hedgehog
3	**2.55**	**Special stamps Lake Constance**
	0.85	Säntis and Romanshorn
	0.85	Obersee
	0.85	Untersee and Ermatingen
2	**2.75**	**Special stamps with surcharge Pro Patria – Fortresses and castles of Switzerland**
	0.85+0.40	Zug Castle
	1.00+0.50	Neu-Bechburg Oensingen Castle
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps Europa Think Green**
	1.00	Green
	1.00	Thinking

We reserve the right to make changes. As at: August 2015

Manu and Jonny in Zermatt playing Tip Kick. Part of the SRF programme "Gipfelsturmer WM 2014 Extra".
Photos: René Tanner | festhalter

Jonny Fischer and Manu Burkart – who perform under the name of "Cabaret DivertiMento" – are currently Switzerland's most successful comedy duo.

DivertiMento – anything but split personalities

"2–3–4–1–2" could be a special Fibonacci sequence to describe their success: in February 2015 they finished the **2nd** year of their **3-** year theatre tour with their **4th** comedy show "Gate 10" in a completely sold out Zurich Hallenstadion – a first for the duo, as it was the **1st** time these Swiss comedians succeeded in selling out this stadium to the very last seat – and **2** nights running at that.

"Kultimulturell", "ZuvieliSation", "Plan B" and "Gate 10" are the comedy shows that DivertiMento have been touring with since Jonny and Manu teamed up on stage thirteen years ago. The duo have since notched up over 1,350 appearances together.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. Success did not arrive overnight. It took more than six years before things started to take off. The two teachers took the courageous step of jacking in their jobs in order to devote themselves entirely to comedy. They gathered lots of experience at countless private gigs such as birthday parties, company anniversaries and young citizen celebrations, even medical congresses. These were not always so great though, there were some gigs that they could well have done without. In the early years the duo sometimes had great difficulty extricating themselves from some tricky situations during performances. But DivertiMento learned to hold their own in front of all sorts of audiences, from staid academics to boring family gatherings and rowdy beer tent crowds. Their often very spontaneous humour always resonated with the public and so they began to make a name for themselves.

In April 2002 DivertiMento launched their first tour in the Lorzensaal in Cham. Jonny and Manu then toured their show "Kultimulturell" (which translates as 'cul-

Jonny and Manu at the Musicaltheater Basel. Final number in Gate 10.

timultural') around various small Swiss theatre venues until 2004. Including, among others, the "Weisser Wind" theatre in Zurich's old town. Their fame spread by word of mouth, and more and more people started coming to see their shows. It was not long before their first TV appearances beckoned, followed by a "Prix Walo" award, the equivalent of an Oscar in Switzerland. Their fame grew and grew. When they premiered their third show "Plan B" in Zug's Theater Casino in October 2008, the response was overwhelming. The whole tour was completely sold out within days of the tickets going on sale. DivertiMento had arrived on the Swiss comedy scene.

To celebrate their 10th anniversary, the duo published a book "DivertiMento – Das Buch". And their success kept right on growing, as did the number of their followers on Facebook. At the beginning of 2014, Jonny and Manu were close runners-up to Stanislas Wawrinka in the Swiss Personality of the Year awards.

When approached by Swiss Post about designing its celebrity stamp for 2015, the two comedians thought it was the cherry on top of the cream cake. Together with their long-standing graphic artist collaborator Andreas Iten, they threw themselves into coming up with ideas for a DivertiMento stamp. They very quickly hit on the basic concept of depicting DivertiMento – i.e. Jonny and Manu – on stage and together with their audience if possible.

Andreas Iten has succeeded in brilliantly capturing the performers as comic figures in a circle reminiscent of a circus ring.

Keep Cool Produktion

Brief biography

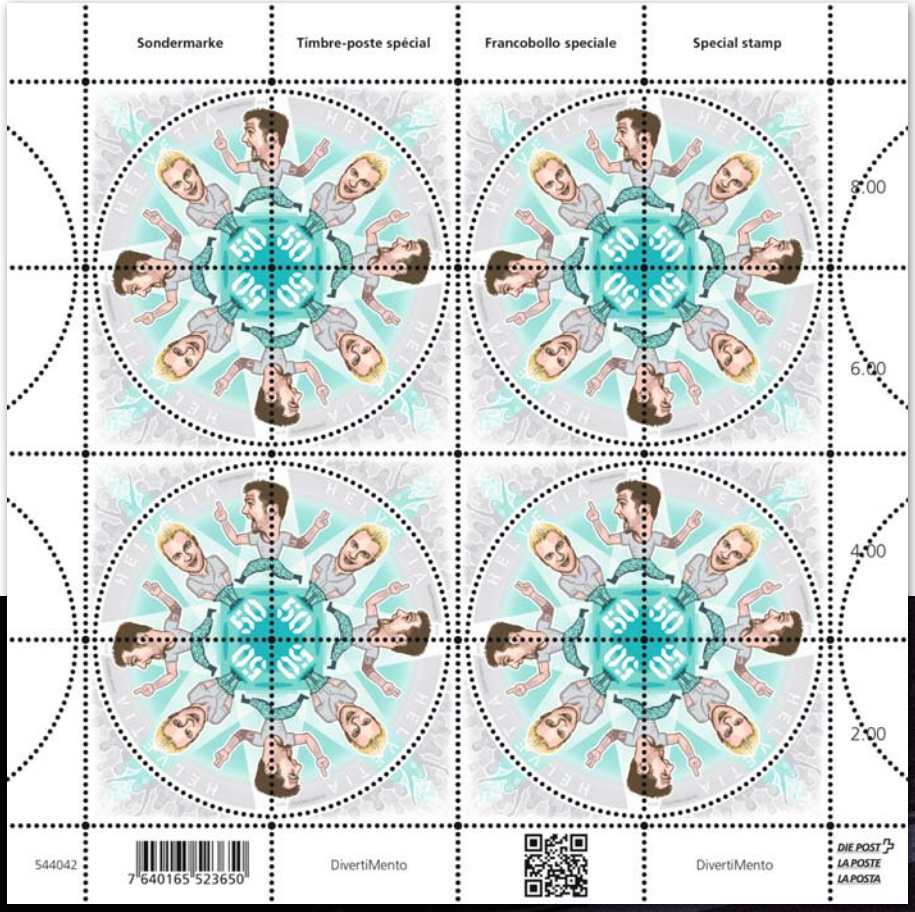
2002-2005
First Swiss tour with "Kultimulturell" entire evening show, a number of private gigs and company events in Switzerland, TV appearances for various regional broadcasters

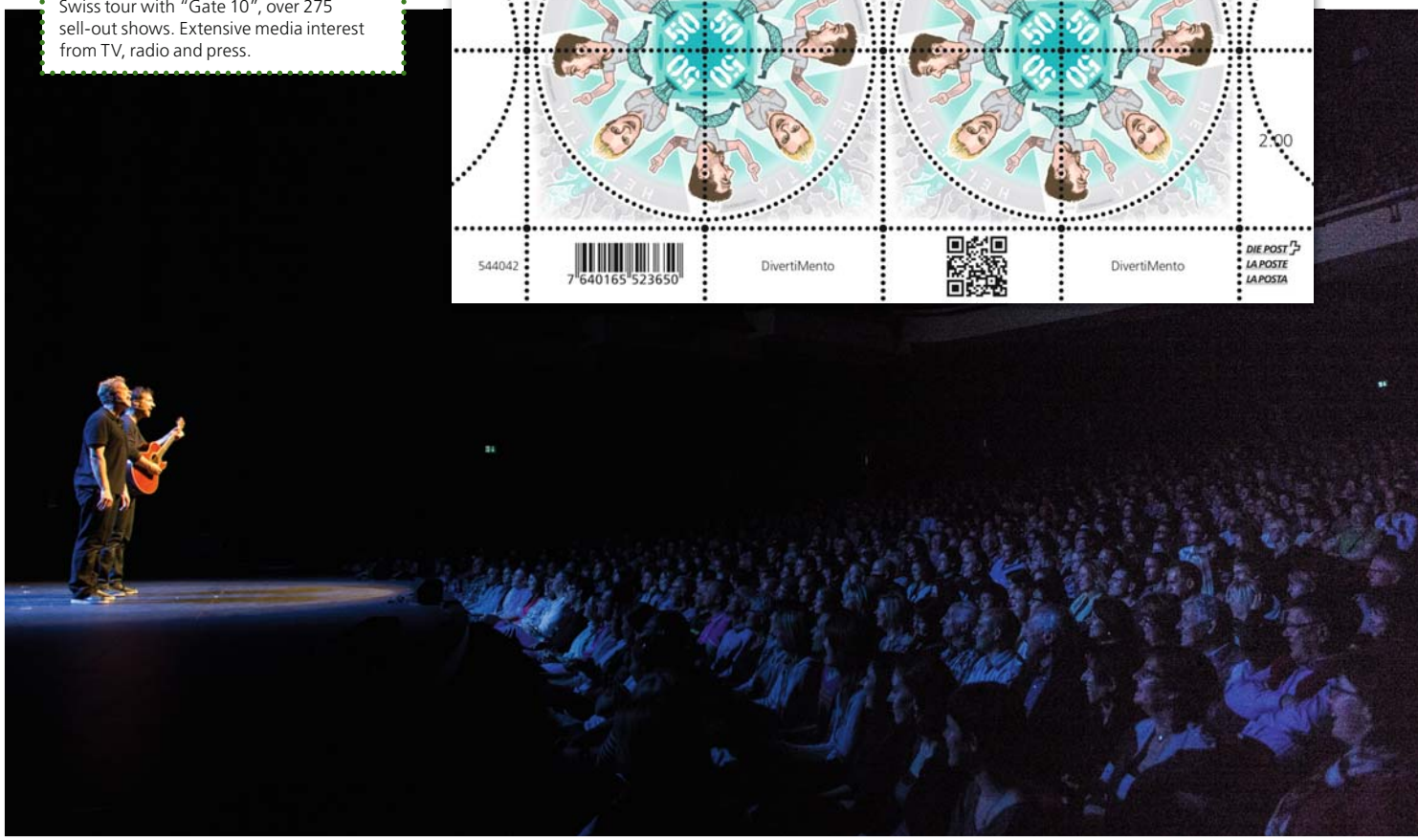
2005-2008
Swiss tour with "ZuvieliSation", first appearance on national television

2008-2011
Swiss tour with "Plan B", over 240 sell-out shows, further appearances on Swiss television

2012-2015
Swiss tour with "Gate 10", over 275 sell-out shows. Extensive media interest from TV, radio and press.

Sheet with 4 × 4 stamps.





Jonny and Manu at Musicaltheater Basel.

Special stamp **DivertiMento**

Sales
Philately: From 5.11.2015 to 31.12.2016, while stocks last
Post offices: From 12.11.2015, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 12.11.2015

Printing
Offset, 6 colours;
Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamp: 35×35 mm
Sheetlet: 170×170 mm (4 rows of 4 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13½:13½

Design
DivertiMento, Weisslingen (ZH)

First day cancellation

First day cover motif

"DivertiMento" at your post office

Jonny Fischer and Manu Burkhart invite you to a very special event. The Cabaret DivertiMento will present its special stamp at the Labor-Bar in Zurich on Thursday, 12 November 2015.

Programme

6 p.m.	Doors open
7 p.m.	Great comedy in miniature format Presentation of the special stamp Moderator: Nik Hartmann
8 p.m.	Autograph-signing and stand-up buffet
10.30 p.m.	Event ends

Registration

Would you like to stretch your laughing muscles and be part of the audience? Then take part in the prize draw at **postshop.ch/divertimento** and with a little luck you can be part of this exclusive event! **Deadline for entries: 22 October 2015.** All participants will be entered in a prize draw for 3 × DivertiMento "Das Buch" and 3 DVD sets "ZuvieliSation", "Plan B" and "Gate 10" plus ten signed FDCs. We'll keep our fingers crossed for you!

The winners will be notified in person by the end of October. The event will take place in German/Swiss German.

Photo: Labor-Bar

Softly falls the snow … soon its white splendour will muffle all the noise of the street. It is almost as if the world is encapsulated in a glass sphere. Just like one of the snow globes instrument-maker Erwin Perzy invented and patented at the end of the 19th century.

We often used to give them as souvenirs or wonderful Christmas presents. I am sure you remember them – you shook them gently and the white snowflakes swirled up then settled over the miniature figures in the landscape.

And if the white stuff threatens – as sadly so often of late – to make itself scarce in Switzerland's central plateau on the 24th of December, then at least you can gently shake the postage stamp instead. Merry Christmas!

Swiss Post is also partaking in this nostalgia and is therefore dedicating its new series of stamps marking Advent 2015 to four of the most familiar symbols of Christmas encapsulated in these glass spheres. With them we would like to wish everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmastide, and we especially wish for snow on Christmas Eve as that makes everything doubly festive.

Make **hay** while the **snow falls**

Let's begin our little presentation with the most commonly used stamp in Switzerland: the first class stamp for a Christmas letter from the heart. **His Matscher's Voice**

Special stamps **Christmas**

Sales
Philately: From 5.11.2015 to 31.12.2016, while stocks last
Post offices: From 12.11.2015, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 12.11.2015

Printing
Offset, 5-colour, with hot foil stamping; Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheetlet: 140×195 mm (5 rows of 4 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, 220 gm²

Perforation
13¼:13½

Design
Bea Würgler, Berne

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

A little tree in the forest

Despite heavy skies and a flurry of snowflakes, the young spruce at the edge of a forest clearing is happy, for it was one of the select few the forester chose and marked here yesterday. In just a few days' time it will be glittering brightly in a cosy family living room – a queen in the holiest of nights. Perhaps even in the home of the lively, frolicsome children who have eagerly built this roly-poly snowman with a carrot for a nose right next to it. The young spruce heard the story of this Christmas tradition from the old fir, as it had been passed down over the years from one generation to the next over countless centuries. For the custom goes back to the pre-Christian era, when people worshipped ivy and evergreen trees as symbols of eternal life, festooning them with decorations to evoke hope during the dark winter months. So the young spruce makes up its mind to spread lots of hope and optimism among humankind this Christmas.

The delicate art of giving

The young spruce at the edge of the forest clearing dreams on: just three more sleeps, then it will be standing in the parlour, a bell will ring and the children will rush expectantly into the room and gaze wide-eyed in wonderment at all its sparkling beauty. Then there will be a moment of quiet, the spruce fancies. And perhaps they will all sing "O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, however green your branches". But as we all know, it is never really a good idea to keep children waiting. For all are now eyeing with curiosity the beautifully wrapped presents tied up with pretty bows and piled up under the little tree. Most people find the moment of surprise and how a gift is packaged just as important as its actual value. Yours truly also used to get a five-franc note thrust into my hand when I was a child. That was actually quite a lot at the time, in relation to my pocket money, but for me it lacked all mystery, and so it rather took the edge off my delight.

All-round Christmas cheer

While we started our tale with symbols of Christmas encapsulated in snow globes, this stamp now presents the interesting phenomenon of globes within a globe. We are of course referring to those colourful baubles we hang on the Christmas tree, especially the ones made of delicate glass that show off a dainty little spruce to best effect. There is a pretty story about their origins too: In 1858 in the northern Vosges mountains, after a long drought and poor harvest, there were no stored apples left to use as the traditional decorations for Christmas trees, so a resourceful glass-blower from Goetzenbruck in Lorraine came up with the brilliant idea of using specially blown, ultra-thin glass baubles instead. And thus a new custom was born and quickly spread to other cultures, creating a lot of new jobs in an impoverished region. Today, industrially manufactured coloured Christmas baubles are coated inside with a silver layer just a few hundredths of a millimetre thick so that the light from candles will be reflected many times over in them.

The magic of candlelight

But back to our young spruce at the edge of the forest clearing: soon everything will be wonderful. What it is looking forward to most is the light of the flickering candles on its branches. “Candle flames are like dancing souls flitting around the room radiating their warm light”, the old fir tree had said. The Romans were already using short beeswax candles two hundred years after the birth of Christ. However, the raw materials were so rare and costly that subsequent generations were always looking for alternative ways of making candles. It was only at the beginning of the 16th century that beeswax became affordable for ordinary folk too, at least for the better-off ones. But they bear no comparison to today’s candles – the wicks had to be continually trimmed in order to avoid too many drips and too much soot. Thankfully time has moved on! Perhaps the young spruce would even detect in the candle’s scent a hint of its own nectar which the bees had so heartily feasted on in spring. Roll on Christmas!

Symbols of Christmas for your festive wishes

Matching Christmas cards for two special stamps

CHF 9.80
"Christmas tree" card set (incl. four CHF 1.00 stamps)

CHF 9.20
"Gifts" card set (incl. four CHF 0.85 stamps)

The new stamps and Christmas cards by Berne-based designer Bea Würgler make you feel Christmassy, enhance your festive messages and give anticipatory pleasure to their recipients.

The two card sets – bearing either the "Gifts" or the "Christmas tree" motif – comprise four A6 folded cards, four white C6 covers and four matching stamps.

Christmas market in Wienacht-Tobel

The first day cover commemorating the annual Christmas market in Wienacht-Tobel was designed by the Wienacht-Lutzenberg tourist office. Swiss Post will present a special cancellation for the Christmas market.

CHF 1.90

A special year-end offer

Once more we are able to offer a multilateral product this year: the folder contains 14 Christmas stamps from the countries of Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany and Austria. It is only available with German text.

The folder contains the Christmas stamps from Switzerland as well as Liechtenstein, Germany and Austria.

CHF 18.00

Another lovely evergreen story

Whatever turmoil is currently afflicting the world, there is one thing you can be absolutely sure of – every year with unerring regularity December's festive season will come around again. And with similar regularity, the Pro Juventute Switzerland series of stamps have been issued to mark these festivities too. And what could be more appropriate – after all children especially should want for nothing during this festival of charity. The stamp set for 2015 is a continuation of last year's, and the Basel comic illustrator Nicolas d'Aujourd'hui has once more designed further scenes depicting Swiss customs during Advent.

His Matscher's Voice

Christmas fare to warm the heart

Sitting down with the family at a gaily decorated table and sharing a meal together at Christmas is a tradition that goes back centuries. The food served on these occasions varies from culture to culture and from family to family. Turkey, carp and Stollen cake are just a few examples of this traditional fare. My grandparents, in keeping with the times, always had lentils with two kinds of bacon, smoked pork ribs, and a large piece of Gugelhopf cake to top it all off. The tradition at my parents was barley soup followed by a rolled ham joint and beans. My father always picked out the ham weeks beforehand and hung it in the chimney. After my father died, my mother then switched to meat loaf with mashed potatoes – my favourite – reasoning that Christmas was chiefly for children anyway. But no matter what food was on the table, one thing was always the same: at least one other invited person joined us at the Christmas table, perhaps a singleton or someone in need. This is a tradition I have followed to this day.

Christmas fun the crafty way

All the windows of department stores, boutiques and specialist shops can be stuffed full of all kinds of wonderful temptations in the run-up to Christmas, but there is one thing they are powerless to prevent: every year during Advent we are bitten by the creative bug and the urge to flex our craft skills again. Crayons, brushes and tubes of paint, glitter, paper, cardboard, leather, wood and sundry other materials, scissors, pliers, saws, hammers and drills, glue, paste, nails and screws are all in high demand. Suddenly rooms are mysteriously locked. And wafting through the house is the aroma of cinnamon stars, chocolate & almond "Brunsli" and "Mailänderli" cookies, all home-baked of course. Everyone is looking forward to the big day. And with good reason. For, regardless of all that modern technology has to offer, there is still something extra-special about a Christmas surprise you have made with your own hands. Let's get cracking!

P.S. On Christmas Eve you might even like to gather round and sing carols yourselves, rather than simply playing a CD …

Special stamps with surcharge **Pro Juventute 2015 – Family rituals**

Sales
Philately: From 5.11.2015 to 30.6.2016, while stocks last
Post offices: From 12.11.2015 until 31.1.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 12.11.2015

Printing
Offset printing, 4-colour;
Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Stamps: 33×28 mm
Sheetlet: 83×198 mm (open), 83×99 mm (folded); 5 rows of 2 stamps
Stamp booklet: 254×62 mm (open), 62×86 mm (folded)

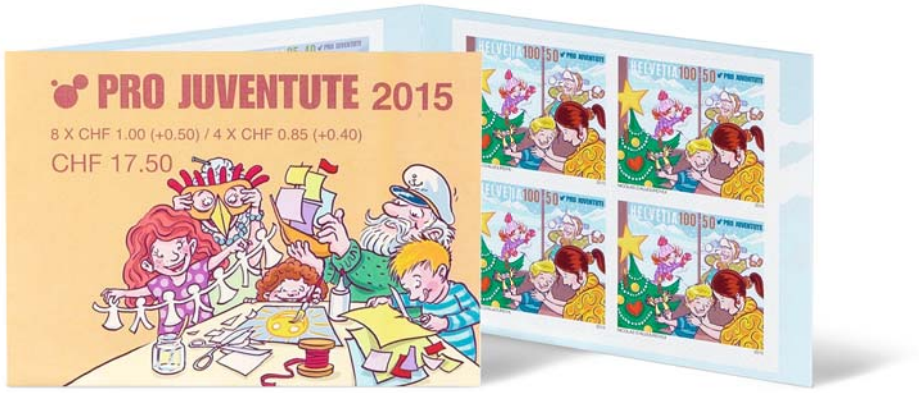
Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 220 gm²

Perforation
Serpentine cut on 4 sides

Design
Nicolas d'Aujourd'hui, Basel

First day cover motif

First day cancellation



Stamp booklet with twelve stamps **to keep customs alive**

The credit card-sized stamp booklet fits neatly into a wallet. So you'll always have the right stamp when you are out and about. The stamp booklet (CHF 17.50) contains eight A Mail (first class) and four B Mail (second class) stamps. All products are available at all post offices or can be ordered online at postshop.ch.

I wish it could be Christmas every day

Candles, stars, colourful baubles, fairy lights, pine branches, mistletoe, tinsel, angel hair, silver nuts, gold dust, ice crystals, straw flowers and gingerbread houses – our world in December abounds with gay decorations. But what we most often notice during Advent are people's cheerful smiling faces – unless of course they are stressed by Christmas shopping that is. Eyes that shine in expectation, in surprise, playful and enraptured. Yes, year after year Christmas works its magic and the world is transformed for a brief moment in time. So, I ask myself: when are we finally going to pass a law to have Christmas all year round? The world could certainly do with it.

P.S. By the way, the Pro Juventute Christmas stamps are valid all year round. And your donation will also continue doing good work. So all it now remains for me to say is Happy Holidays!

Architectural gems

Miniature sheet with surcharge **Stamp Day 2015 Bulle**

Sales
Philately: From 5.11.2015 to 31.12.2016, while stocks last
Post offices Bulle 1 and 2: From 12.11.2015

Validity
Unlimited from 12.11.2015

Printing
Offset printing, 5-colour, with silver coating; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein

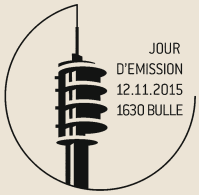
Sizes
Stamps: 54×31.5 mm and 36×40.5 mm
Miniature sheet: 125×45 mm

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13¾

Design
Michèle Berri, Lamboing (BE)

First day cover motif



First day cancellation

At the border between the Fribourg districts of Saane and Gruyère are the two architectural masterpieces we are celebrating with this year's Stamp Day. As it dominates the skyline of the whole region, travellers to Gruyère from Fribourg can already see the enormous Gibloux Radio Tower from afar.

The Gibloux Radio Tower

Historically, Gibloux first turns up in documents as Monte Lubleur in 1141. Later the names Monte Lublors (1143) and Jublors (1239) are also mentioned.

Today Gibloux is a well-known walking area at the heart of which stands the 118-metre high radio and television mast erected by Swisscom, which can be ascended via a spiral staircase. The 37-metre high platform affords views far and wide over the Gruyère region and beyond to the Alps and the Jura Mountains. The tower also houses the Georama exhibition in which visitors can find out everything about the geology and geography of the region. On the way back, it is well worth walking along the botanical trail at the foot of the tower.

The Lake Gruyère viaduct

Lake Gruyère can also be seen from the Gibloux Radio Tower, and crossing it the impressive two-kilometre motorway viaduct built in 1978. Lake Gruyère is a reservoir that was formed following the building of the Rossens dam in 1948.

From the viaduct, drivers can see the Île d'Ogoz, the pearl of the lake, on which the ruined castle of the former lords of Ogoz stands. Together with the modern viaduct, the old walls form an extremely impressive vista.

Adrien Bourret

360° panorama from the Gibloux Radio Tower.
Photos: Wikipedia / Tschubby

The A6 postal card depicts the Gibloux Radio Tower. The special perforation of the stamp is clearly visible on the rear.

CHF 2.50

Postal card

Sales
Philately: From 5.11.2015 to 31.12.2016, while stocks last
Post offices: Not available

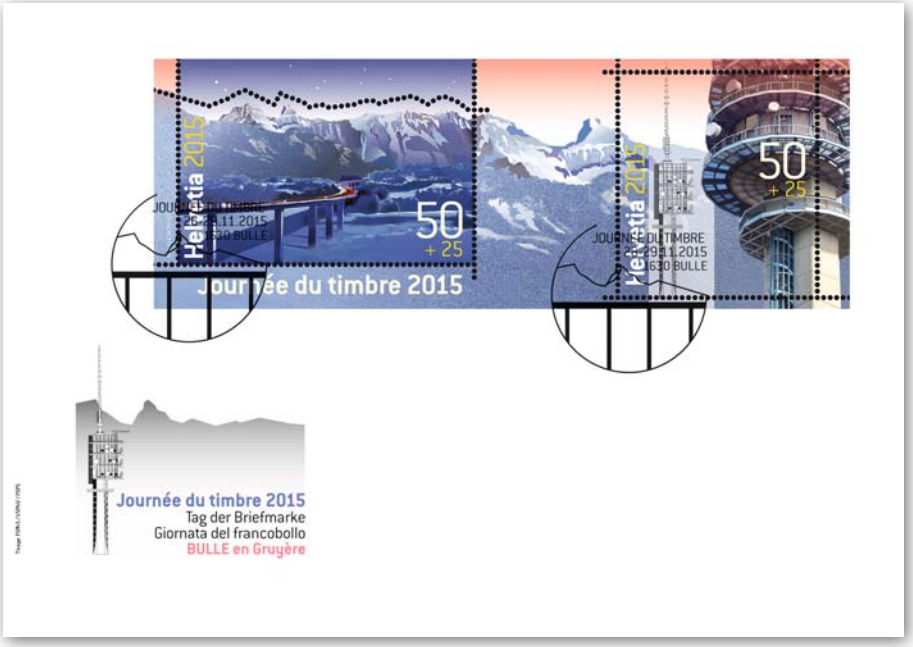
Validity
Unlimited from 12.11.2015

Printing
Offset printing

Sizes
Card: 148×105 mm
Stamp: 54×31.5 mm

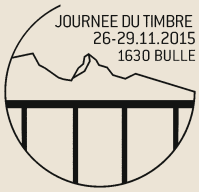
Paper
White offset board, 235 gm²

Photo: Mariette Le Colas
Graphics editing: Martine Dietrich



The association cover is now issued in C6 format. It has the special cancellation that will also be used during the exhibition.

Association cover CHF 4.00



Special cancellation

Exhibition Timbr@phil'15 levels II & III

Venue: Espace Gruyère, Bulle

Opening times of exhibition, stamp fair and special post office

Thursday	26.11.2015	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday	27.11.2015	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	28.11.2015	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday	29.11.2015	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During the exhibition Swiss Post will operate a special post office which will use the special cancellation illustrated here. Individual envelopes should be sent to the following address by no later than 25 November 2015: Post CH Ltd, Post Offices and Sales, Retail Logistics PV53, "TdBM2015" Cancellation Service, Ostermundigenstrasse 91, 3030 Berne.

Autograph session
An autograph session with the designer of the special stamps, Michèle Berri from Lamboing, will take place at the special post office on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon).

For more information, go to timbraphil15.ch

Traditional, colourful, fluffy or international

There is something for everyone in the 2015 year book

Already the cover of the Swiss stamps year book promises a journey that indulges our yen for nostalgia. This popular compilation is packed with attractive pictures and interesting background information, showcasing all 52 of this year's original stamps (without USPS gutter). The appeal of this miniature work of art lies in its variety, with designs featuring masterpieces of Swiss engineering, man's best friends and magnificent natural wonders. The stories behind the Swiss stamps are many and varied: they congratulate on attaining major milestones, honour important charitable institutions, showcase nostalgic toys and make the jewellery worn with traditional costumes sparkle. The spectrum is broad. From ancient fossils to amusing comic characters, there is something for everyone.

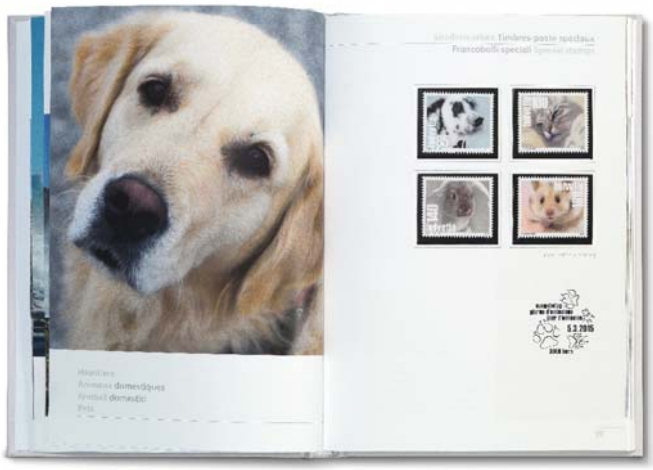
Magical baubles and typical family rituals are captivating at Christmas.

Rounding off the compilation is the Swiss comedy duo Divertimento, whose exquisite nonsense has entertained folk up and down the country.

And as always, it of course includes the ever popular black print exclusive to the year book. This year it depicts the four special stamps featuring Swiss automobiles.

Carina Ammon

CHF 66.00
Available as mint or cancelled. Over 100 pages containing all 52 original stamps and first day cancellations for the year. Text in four languages (German, French, Italian, English)



A very special gift

The year book of Swiss stamps is no ordinary present. This reference work not only makes the ideal Christmas gift but is also a great present for important anniversaries and birthdays. It also makes an original gift for new parents who wish to document the year of their child's birth with a unique collection.

Available in the year book only!

Not only does the year book contain all original stamps and first day cancellations, this popular collection also includes an exclusive black print of the four special stamps featuring Swiss automobiles.

The manger under the Star of Bethlehem

The "Holy Family" motif continues the three-year stamp series featuring subjects from the Biblical Christmas story. The cover is franked with the CHF 1.00 stamp from the current Christmas set.

Silhouette art originated in 13th century northern China where it was used to decorate windows, which at the time were made of paper. The first silhouette work to be documented in Europe dates from the 17th century. Ursula Regez has not been working for quite that long, but took up the craft of silhouette cut-outs in the 1970s. A native of the Appenzell region, Regez has always taken a keen interest not only in silhouette art, but also in the famous local folk art, which she taught herself. The combination of soft background painting and detailed, filigree silhouettes developed into her personal style. The motif entitled "The Holy Family" is the second of a three-part set.

Natascha Baumann

Cover: CHF 1.90 / Card: CHF 0.90
C6 special cover plus four-page A6 card with printed greetings in four languages. Designed by Ursula Regez.

Important note
Customers with a standing order for special Swiss Post cancellations will automatically receive the special cancellation/cover shown here in the usual quantities.

Special date cancellation

Special post office Bethlehem

Date: 14 to 18 December 2015

Place: Special post office Bethlehem, "im Tscharni", Café und Quartierzentrum, Waldmannstrasse 17, 3027 Berne

Directions: Tram no. 8 to Tscharnergut tram stop

Opening times:

Monday, 14 December	1 to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, 15 December	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, 16 December	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.
Thursday, 17 December	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.
Friday, 18 December	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.

A letterbox will also be set up from 14 December (1 p.m.) until 18 December (5 p.m.).

Letters mailed and franked with valid postage stamps will also be cancelled (must not contain valuable items and please use the correct franking amount, also applies to registered items). These should be sent in a franked envelope by **no later than 13 December 2015 to the following address:** Post Offices and Sales, Retail Logistics PV53, "Bethlehem" Cancellation Service, Ostermundigenstrasse 91, 3030 Berne.

Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope so that the article for cancellation can be returned to you. Thank you.

The complete collection: **all stamps and first day covers for 2015**

Year set: all stamps and miniature sheets from 2015 together

With the 2015 year set you won't miss a single Swiss philatelic work of art from this year. Swiss Post issued 53 stamps this year. Inserted in four free backing cards, they can all be ordered together, making it easy for you to add to your collection. The price of the year set – either mint or cancelled – is based on the total of the face values and surcharges of the individual stamps. The year set is also available as a standing order and makes an ideal gift.

CHF 59.80

Also available on standing order!
Tel.: +41 (0)848 66 55 44
E-mail: stamps@swisspost.ch

CHF 87.90

2015 year set with all first day covers

24 first day covers (FDCs) – including the single stamps, sets and miniature sheets with the respective first day cancellations – were issued by Swiss Post this year. You can now order all these as a set, which can also be purchased by standing order.

Philatelic gift ideas

Culinary souvenir of Expo Milano 2015 – exclusive for you

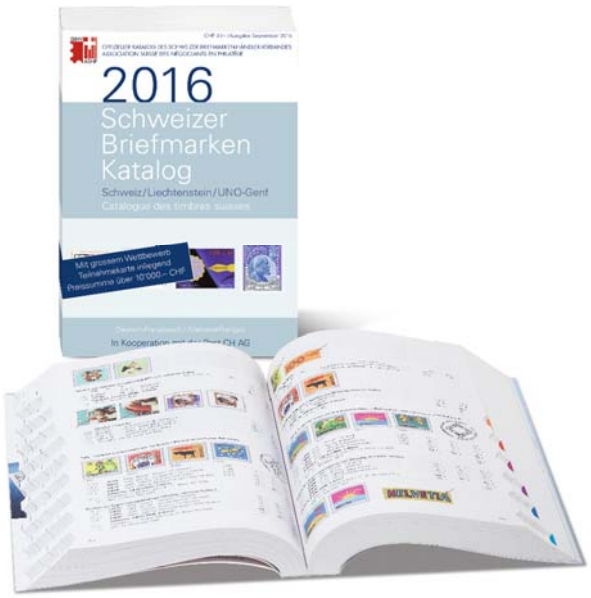
CHF 19.00

– An attractive book with recipes and culinary information about the seven regions of Switzerland featured at Expo
– Contains one sheet with six original Expo Milano 2015 stamps with a total value of CHF 6.00.
– With a foreword by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter
– 100 pages, hardback book in four languages: Italian, German, French, English

Make sure you get a copy of this unique Expo souvenir today!

The stamp catalogue – a **must-have for every collector**

– With key information on all stamps from Switzerland, the UN Geneva and Liechtenstein
– Faithful colour illustrations of all stamps
– Including face values
– Close to 1000 pages
– Includes practical thumb index
– In two languages: German/French



SBK stamp catalogue: CHF 37.00

Zumstein stamp catalogue: CHF 35.00

Everything you need: **Fred's collector's starter set in an amusing and practical bag**

Many children are interested in stamps. Attracted initially "only" by the little brightly coloured images, they soon realize there's an exciting world behind the colours. From which country does the stamp come? And what does it depict?
Stamp collecting is a great exercise in dexterity too, because stamps have to be carefully removed from envelopes and then dried so they can be inserted into a display card in good condition. And even handling tweezers is a mini-adventure for little fingers! The comprehensive starter kit for young collectors contains everything a beginner needs, plus tips from FRED, the stamp dinosaur, on researching, classifying and collecting stamps. The FRED & FUN collector's magazine is included in the set and can be ordered free of charge upon request (see p. 29 to find out how).

The starter kit comprises:

- A collecting poster (A3) with tips about collecting stamps
- FRED & FUN for young collectors
- Display cards
- Drying book
- Magnifying glass
- Stamp tweezers
- Perforation gauge
- Used stamps for soaking off
- Stamp catalogue
- Information about subscribing to "Tell me what you collect"

A bit of Stamp history

Aerophilately is a branch of stamp collecting. Aerophilatelists collect stamps with aeroplane motifs as well as letters and cards that have been sent by airmail. Each of the cards or envelopes tells a little story from that particular period in time.

The first cancellation on the 1929 postcard shown here is from Berne dated 31 July 1929. On the same day it was also cancelled in Friedrichshafen with the Zeppelin special cancellation "1st America flight 1929". On 5 August the postcard arrived in New York where a transit cancellation was added. The postcard also bears a cancellation from its target destination of Guines in Cuba dated 8 August.

FRED&FUN

Stamp Day

... is from 26 to 29 November 2015.

Stamp Day has been held in Bulle, Gruyère, once before, in 2009. This year Bulle again plays host to the colossal stamp collecting event, and once again a special miniature sheet commemorates the day. Entrance is free.
Information on Stamp Day can be found at www.timbraphil15.ch.

The 2009 miniature sheet featured Gruyère Castle. This year the miniature sheet features two special stamps. They show the motorway viaduct close to Bulle and the Gibloux Tower, one of Swisscom's key communications towers in western Switzerland.

© wikipedia.com

Fred's most important day

I write down all my important dates here.
2015
Birthdays, public holidays, holidays, parties, Carnival, name day and ...
... Stamp Day!

PRO JUVENTUTE

Puzzle

The three new stamps focus on things that everyone likes doing as Christmas approaches: handicrafts, decorations and meals with friends and family.

Put the puzzle pieces in the correct places. Which piece belongs on which puzzle and where exactly?

1: .....
2: .....
3: .....

4: .....
5: .....
6: .....

7: .....
8: .....
9: .....

You'll find the solutions on the last page.

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas stamps conjure up memories of old times, with snow globes featured on these four new stamps. Snow globes are made of glass or plastic and are filled with water. Little bits of plastic snow float around in the water. When you shake the globe, they swirl up and then fall slowly down like snowflakes.

No-one actually knows who created the first snow globe, but they have been around for a couple of centuries now at least. A little over 100 years ago surgical-instrument maker Erwin Perzy began to produce the first little snowy worlds in Vienna. The big issue for him was what material to use as snow. He experimented at first with splinters of glass, but these fell to the bottom of the globes too quickly. He found semolina was the perfect solution. Nowadays, however, the snow flakes are tiny pieces of plastic.

Snow globes are a popular stamp motif. Swiss Post has issued stamps bearing the snow globe motif in the past. Discover these new little worlds featuring typical Swiss motifs.

Make your own snow

Distilled water is available from your chemist or the car aisle of your supermarket.

You will need:

- 1 jam jar with a tight-fitting lid
- Warm distilled water
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 drop of washing up liquid
- Artificial snow or glitter
- Miniature figurines
- Non-water soluble glue or hot glue

Here's how it works:

1. Wash the jar and lid with hot water ensuring both are completely clean.

OFFER

FRED&FUN
FREE OF CHARGE
Collection booklet

Collection booklet

Four times a year, many new stamps come out on around 20 topics.
The most interesting subjects for children are explained and illustrated in the FRED&FUN collection booklet.
It is available while stocks last from postshop.ch (enter "Collection booklet" in the Search field) or by phone on: +41 (0)848 66 55 44.

How to obtain them
Each "Focus on stamps" stamp magazine comes with an order form. Your parents can use it to order the collection booklet and stamps. Alternatively they can phone +41 (0)848 66 55 44.
Or you can go to a philatelic salespoint in the Post offices in 4002 Basel, 3008 Berne, 1000 Lausanne, 6900 Lugano, 9001 St. Gallen or 8022 Zurich.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch with Fred, send an e-mail to: fred@post.ch

Solution to page 2: 1E, 2H, 3F, 4B, 5I, 6D, 7G, 8C, 9A

globe

2
Place the figurines on the inside of the lid.
3
Make sure the jar fits over the top of the figurines.
The jar must not touch the figurines.
4
Glue the figurines to the lid. Make sure they are stuck on well or they will come off when the globe is shaken.
5
Mix the water, salt and washing up liquid and pour into the jar together with the glitter.
6
Put on the lid, and your snow globe is complete.

The newest stamp products

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

DivertiMento

CHF 0.50

Special stamp
White stamp paper, mat gummed

First day of issue 12.11.2015

Set
A053 150 ★
A053 550 ⊙ *CHF 1.00*

Block of four
A053 160 ★
A053 560 ⊙ *CHF 2.00*

Sheet of 16 stamps
A053 111 ★
A053 511 ⊙
CHF 8.00

Set on first day cover C6
A053 580 ⊙ only *CHF 1.90*

Single stamp on first day cover C6
A053 600 ⊙ only *CHF 1.40*

Block of four on first day cover C6
A053 630 ⊙ only *CHF 2.90*

Unstamped cover C6
A053 700
CHF 0.90

Folder / collection sheet
A053 640 ★
A053 650 ⊙ *CHF 1.80*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Christmas

CHF 0.85 Gifts
CHF 1.00 Christmas tree
CHF 1.40 Baubles
CHF 1.90 Candles

Special stamps
White stamp paper, self-adhesive
Stamps can also be detached from the front

First day of issue 12.11.2015

Set
A054 150 ★
A054 550 ⊙ *CHF 5.15*

Set of blocks of four
A054 160 ★
A054 560 ⊙ *CHF 20.60*

Sheet of 20 stamps

0.85 Gifts
A054 111 ★
A054 511 ⊙
CHF 17.00

1.00 Christmas tree
A054 112 ★
A054 512 ⊙
CHF 20.00

1.40 Baubles
A054 113 ★
A054 513 ⊙
CHF 28.00

1.90 Candles
A054 114 ★
A054 514 ⊙
CHF 38.00

Half sheet of 10 stamps

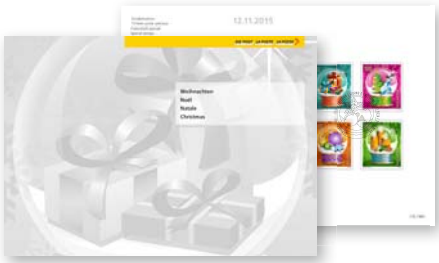
1.90 Candles
A054 121 ★
A054 521 ⊙
CHF 19.00

Set on first day cover C6
A054 580 ⊙ only *CHF 6.05*

Single stamp on first day cover C6
(4 covers)
A054 600 ⊙ only *CHF 8.75*

Block of four on first day cover C6
(4 covers)
A054 630 ⊙ only *CHF 24.20*

Unstamped cover C6
A054 700
CHF 0.90



Folder / collection sheet
A054 640 ★
A054 650 ⊙ *CHF 5.95*

Christmas cards with covers and stamps*
Set of 4 A6 double cards with the motif "Gifts", 4 C6 covers and 4 "Gifts" Christmas stamps (CHF 0.85) (not affixed)
A054 951 ★ only *CHF 9.20*

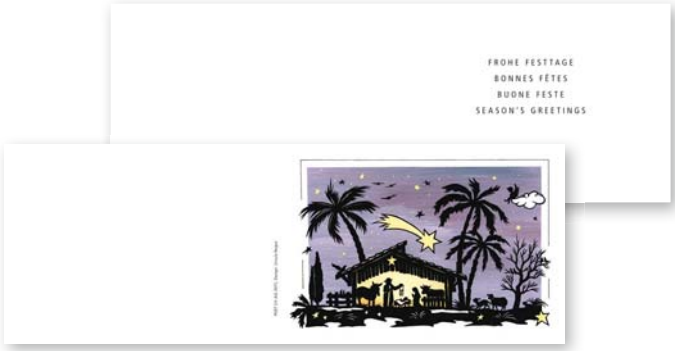
Christmas cards with covers and stamps*
Set of 4 A6 double cards with the motif "Christmas tree", 4 C6 covers and 4 "Christmas tree" Christmas stamps (CHF 1.00) (not affixed)
A054 952 ★ only *CHF 9.80*

* These articles are not delivered as part of a standing order.

Christmas special 2015 “Bethlehem”

Special cover “Bethlehem” C6
franked with the special stamp “Christmas tree” (CHF 1.00) and cancelled with the special cancellation “3027 Bern 27 Bethlehem 14.–18. Dezember 2015”
A057 141 ⊙ only *CHF 1.90*

Unstamped special cover C6
A057 142
CHF 0.90



2015 Christmas card, unstamped
A6, four pages, printed greetings in Ge, Fr, It, En
A057 143 *CHF 0.90*

The “Christmas special 2015 ‘Bethlehem’” articles are not delivered as part of a standing order.

Christmas market 2015 “Wienacht-Tobel”

Special cover C6
franked with the special stamp “Christmas tree” (CHF 1.00) and cancelled with the special cancellation “9405 Wienacht-Tobel 29.11.2015”
A075 991 ⊙ only *CHF 1.90*

Unstamped special cover C6
A075 700
CHF 0.90

The “Christmas market ‘Wienacht-Tobel’” articles are not delivered as part of a standing order.

Christmas product “Liechtenstein/Germany/Switzerland/Austria”

Multilateral Christmas set with 14 stamps
2015 issue by Liechtenstein, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Article available in German only.
A074 990 ★ only *CHF 18.00*

This product is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Pro Juventute – Family rituals

CHF 1.25 (0.85+0.40) **Eating**
CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) **Crafts**
CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) **Christmas**

Special stamps with surcharge
White stamp paper, self-adhesive

First day of issue 12.11.2015

Set
A055 150 ★
A055 550 ⊙ *CHF 4.25*

Set of blocks of four
A055 160 ★
A055 560 ⊙ *CHF 17.00*

Sheet of 10 stamps

1.25 Eating
A055 111 ★
A055 511 ⊙
CHF 12.50

1.50 Crafts
A055 112 ★
A055 512 ⊙
CHF 15.00

1.50 Christmas
A055 113 ★
A055 513 ⊙
CHF 15.00

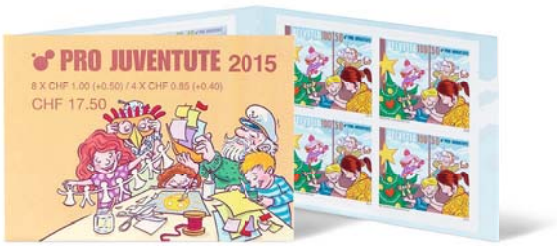
Set on first day cover C6
A055 580 ⊙ only *CHF 5.15*

Single stamp on first day cover C6
(3 covers)
A055 600 ⊙ only *CHF 6.95*

Block of four on first day cover C6
(3 covers)
A055 630 ⊙ only *CHF 19.70*

Unstamped cover C6
A055 700
CHF 0.90

Folder / collection sheet
A055 640 ★
A055 650 ⊙ *CHF 5.05*



Stamp booklet
4 self-adhesive CHF 0.85+0.40 stamps with the motif "Eating" and 4 self-adhesive CHF 1.00+0.50 stamps with the motifs "Crafts" and "Christmas" (plus CHF 0.50 for producing the stamp booklet)
A055 300 ★
A055 800 ⊙ *CHF 17.50*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Stamp Day 2015

CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) **Bulle**

Miniature sheet
White stamp paper, mat gummed

First day of issue 12.11.2015

Miniature sheet
A056 315 ★
A056 815 ⊙
CHF 1.50

Miniature sheet on first day cover C6
A056 580 ⊙ only *CHF 2.40*

Unstamped cover C6
A056 700
CHF 0.90

Folder / collection sheet
A056 640 ★
A056 650 ⊙ *CHF 2.30*

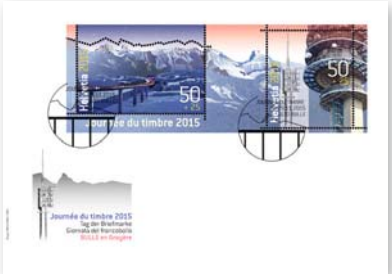
Stamp Day 2015 Bulle

Postal stationery

First day of issue 12.11.2015

Postal card "Stamp Day 2015 Bulle", face value CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) + 1.00 for the card
A056 841 ★
A056 846 ⊙ *CHF 2.50*

Official USPS product



Special cover C6 of the Union of Swiss Philatelists' Societies (USPS)
franked with the miniature sheet "Stamp Day 2015 Bulle" and cancelled with the special cancellation "1630 Bulle 26–29.11.2015"
A056 581 ⊙ only *CHF 4.00*

This article is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Expo Milano 2015 – Swiss cuisine

Book

First day of issue 7.5.2015

Culinary highlights and recipes from seven regions in Switzerland including a sheetlet with six original "E Milano 2015" stamps (1/2015 issue dated 5.3.2015). A5 landscape, hardcover, 100 pages, 4 languages (It, Ge, Fr, En).
A028 835 ★ only *CHF 19.00*

The book is not delivered as part of a standing order.

2016 stamp catalogues

Zumstein Switzerland/ Liechtenstein/ UN Geneva
German/French
A050 725
CHF 35.00

Swiss Stamp Dealers Association Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva
German/French
A049 787
CHF 37.00

The stamp catalogues will be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.

Annual and special products

Set of single stamps, 4/2015 edition
The single stamps / sets and the miniature sheet in the 4/2015 issue dated 12.11.2015 are displayed on a free A5 backing card with a protective cellophane wrapping.
A051 150 ★
A051 550 ⊙
CHF 11.90

Set of first day covers, 4/2015 edition
The first day covers with the set and miniature sheet of the 4/2015 issue of 12.11.2015 are combined in one free cover.
A051 580 ⊙ only
CHF 15.50

2015 year book of Swiss stamps
A058 830 ★
A058 831 ⊙ *CHF 66.00*

2015 year set
A059 320 ★
A059 820 ⊙
CHF 59.80

2015 year set of first day covers
A061 530 ⊙ only
CHF 87.90

Voucher for stamps and philatelic articles
871 399
CHF 15.00

FRED & FUN

Collection booklet 2015
(see page 29)
English
1917 904
Free of charge

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

2015 year book of Swiss Stamps

CHF 66.–

- 52 original stamps
- Information in four languages
- Richly illustrated motifs
- With exclusive black print

Order the year book now: tel. +41 (0)848 66 55 44
or via postshop.ch

SWISS POST

Yellow in motion.